

Pending the arrival of the provisions which left Geneva on 22 November, the Sanaa delegation took steps to meet the most urgent needs. A ton of milk powder from the ICRC's stocks in Sanaa was flown to Sa'da and distributed. Other consignments of milk which were available to the Ministry of Education have also been sent to schools in the townships of Umran (1,200 kilos), Chamer (900 kgs), and Sa'da (2,100 kgs).

In Sanaa the ICRC delegates, continuing the action begun a year ago, delivered 4 tons of milk powder to schools and hospitals. The ICRC also recently despatched emergency medicines and surgical equipment which are completely lacking in the Sanaa hospitals. These reliefs supplies are valued at almost 10,000 Swiss francs.

As can be seen, the humanitarian action started in the Yemen by the ICRC at the beginning of 1962 is today as necessary as ever.

IN GENEVA

Tribute to Mr. Jacques Chenevière

In its session of 6 November 1919 the ICRC appointed a new member, Mr. Jacques Chenevière. On 6 November 1969, fifty years later day for day, the International Committee payed tribute to this man who for so many years devoted himself to the Red Cross ideal. Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President, said in a meed of praise:

Exactly fifty years ago today, on 6 November 1919, our colleague, friend and doyen, Jacques Chenevière, was elected to membership of the ICRC, after having worked for it since 1914. Fate has managed things well, since 6 November is the very day on which we hold our plenary session.

I would not let this great date go by without expressing to our revered colleague our profound gratitude and you can well imagine

that it is not without emotion that I speak in your name although I am myself one of the most recently elected.

I shall not relate here all the reasons for which Jacques Chenevière has earned our gratitude. That would be an impossible task because they are too numerous, for during his fifty years on the Committee he has always been in the forefront with incomparably constant dedication and reliable judgment. And we all know what he has been for the Red Cross to which he has given the best of his heart and intelligence.

I would however like to recall some milestones of this fruitful career. As early as 1914, Gustave Ador entrusted him, with Mrs. Frick-Cramer and Mr. E. Clouzot, to found the International Prisoners of War Agency as it was then called—our Central Tracing Agency of today. The essential work was accomplished in that hive of industry for the benefit of victims and their families—as you yourself described it, dear Colleague, with your great literary talent in the charming book you published two years ago entitled Retours et Images.

Elected to membership of the ICRC in 1919 when the war was finished, you were on the “Missions Commission” which directed the work of our delegates throughout the world. In 1923 you were appointed Director-General and later a Member of the “Steering Committee” which was later called “Bureau” before changing its name to Presidential Council as it is now. You have unceasingly worked at the head of this institute which you love, a love which is by no means unrequited.

The work of that period was described by you brilliantly in an issue of the Revue de Paris which bore the fatal date of 1 September 1939. Now, that very day world war broke out a second time, once again unfurling its cloak of shame and misery and giving an unprecedented impetus to our institution’s development. Then, once more you directed the reborn Central Agency after having presided at the setting up on a war footing of the various services.

Several times Vice-President of the ICRC, you remained a Member of the Presidential Council without interruption right to the present day. What a fine example of faithfulness! In fact, it is almost unique in the annals of our institution. Moynier himself, one of the founders, was a member for 47 years. Only Gustave Ador exceeded the half century.

To thank you for all that and all which I have not said, the Committee decided in 1949 to present you with its gold medal and, in

1959, with the title of Honorary Vice-President, created, in a way, for you.

What can we add today other than the reiterated expression of our great respect, profound admiration and unfailing friendship?

In a few spontaneous words Mr. Jacques Chenevière thanked with feeling the President of the International Committee.

He recalled with familiarity the half century of ICRC activity which followed the five years of work which he had carried out from as early as 1914 to 1919. He affirmed that he had only served as best he could a cause which had become that of all members of the Red Cross and that during that time he had learnt much on humanity, its conflicts and its misery. Apart from those painful experiences, he said, he treasured the friendship he had made with his colleagues and many staff members at all levels. He had forgotten none, neither those who were no longer with us nor those who were still alive and active.

He conveyed with every confidence and with affection to the International Committee his best wishes for the Red Cross mission.

ICRC Guests

In November the International Committee had the pleasure of welcoming to its headquarters the Presidents of two National Societies of Central America.

The first visitor was Dr. Enriquez Arrué, President of the Guatemala Red Cross, who had discussions with the leaders of our institution and was shown round the Central Tracing Agency. A few days later Mgr. Donaldo Chávez Núñez, President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross also talked with the head officials of the ICRC and with them examined various topical problems of a humanitarian nature.
